



NEWS FROM NATIONAL

FROM: Wynne Smith, Executive Director
TO: BMW CCA National and Service Officers,
Chapter Presidents, Newsletter Editors
DATE: September 23, 2003

MEMBERSHIP STATS as of 09/23/2003

	<u>Full</u>	<u>Associate</u>	<u>Total</u>
	66,056	7,988	74,044
Last Month's Membership	65,508	7,979	73,487
Monthly Net Gain (Loss)	533	9	542
Monthly % Change	0.81%	0.11%	0.74%
Last Year's Membership	63,039	7,266	70,525
Annual Net Gain (Loss)	3,017	922	3,939
Annual % Change	4.79%	12.69%	5.60%
New Members, 09/03	1,577		
Renewals 09/03	61.3%		
Roundels Mailed	67,000		

RAFFLE 2003

It's looking as though we will be giving away 13 cars this year. There is a stack of purchases left to input and three days left to go. Will we give away 13 M3s? Or will we be giving away 12 M3s and a big chunk of cash? Will we give away 13 M3s and a little hunk of cash? Tune in next month when the outcome is revealed.

PLEASE remind everyone you know who has participated in the raffle that Monday, October 13th is a holiday and we will not be here. We will commence calling the raffle winners Tuesday morning, October 14th – but if members try calling us Monday, they're going to get a recording. C'mon, a little suspense never hurt anyone.

OKTOBERFEST 2003

Harmon Fischer of Bayou Chapter was right when he posted that Oktoberfest is going to be an "intimate" gathering this year. With less than two weeks before the event we have just a little over 300 registrations. Of course...I just registered this morning...Due to the lower attendance this year we have taken the suggestion of one of our esteemed chapter Presidents, and with a view towards keeping the length of the Friday night banquet to under 4-hours, we will be stuffing the trophies directly into everyone's goodie bag for collection at registration.

Only kidding!

CHAPTER CONGRESS 2004

Only five chapters have returned surveys. I am going to post the survey forms to the Presidents, Treasurers and DEC digests – even though DEC members will not be attending – we'd still like your input. For those of you currently serving as Presidents and Treasurers, if you are not signed up for the specific digests, please send me an email (wynne.smith@roundel.org) and I will be happy to give you access. The digests are wonderful resources for information and for networking amongst yourselves.

Another valuable resource is the BMW CCA-Talk Digest <http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/BMWCCAtalk/>

The list is not endorsed by the CCA and serves only as an area for the exchange of ideas by the members. The forum is open to all BMW CCA members and is a great place to swap ideas and learn more about what's going on nationwide.

The threat of litigation outlined in last month's *News From National* remains pending and will definitely be a topic of discussion at the National Board Meeting in Minneapolis, October 18. The proposed budget for 2004 is also on the agenda for discussion. As you all know, if a lawsuit is commenced, the costs of defending it may have a material effect on our balance sheet and we must begin planning for that contingency now. Cost-cutting measures are currently under consideration along with scrutiny of our current dues structure.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To be held October 18 – 19, 2003 in Minneapolis, MN. If there are topics you'd like your Regional Vice President to present, please contact him to make sure your topic appears on the agenda. As always, those of you wishing to observe the open sessions of any board meeting are welcome to do so. Please call the national office 864 250-0022 to let us know you'd like to attend, or send me an email: wynne_smith@roundel.org.

BMW CCA MERCHANDISE

After some false starts, we think we've got this under control. There will be some really cool BMW CCA gear for sale at Oktoberfest along with some really nice Oktoberfest merchandise – quality clothing and accessories available to BMW CCA members. We have also struck a deal with Land's End. They have our logo and are willing to place your chapter logos on any of the merchandise they offer.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS

More and more members are asking if they might have more than one associate. It is mostly fathers wishing to add two or three teenaged children, or a member who has a spouse as an associate and now wants to add a teenaged child. Our database can facilitate multiple associates. I've thought for some time that it would be a great benefit to the members, especially those trying to get teenagers into driving schools and car control clinics, and it's a great way to encourage younger people to become involved in the organization. At the last Board Meeting I petitioned the Board and The Board has agreed to allow multiple associates – so long as each associate resides at the same address as the primary member.

Associate members derive all the same benefits and services as primary members with the exception that they do not receive their own copies of Roundel or their own copies of chapter newsletters.

Please alert your chapter members!

ELECTIONS

Positions open are: President, Vice President, North Atlantic Regional Vice President and South Central Regional Vice President.

To run for the Presidency, you must have already served on the National Board.

Candidates must be nominated by a member who has been a member for at least six months prior (the nomination must include the BMW CCA membership number of the nominating person) and the candidate's acceptance of the nomination should be countersigned on the same page (including the candidate's own membership number). Nominees for Regional Offices, and those nominating them, must reside and be a chapter member in the specific region.

Nominations should include a candidacy statement of **no more than 300 words** and an appropriate photograph of the candidate. Those wishing to help in refining the CCA's strategic framework: its values,

vision, mission and broad goals; those wishing to help formulate and refine policies that govern our practices should send their nominations, acceptances, candidacy statements and photographs to be received at the National Office **before 5 PM EST October 31, 2003.**

If you are considering running for a National Board position and would like information on the job requirements and time commitment, please contact me or speak with any of the individuals currently serving. We're no longer a little 10,000 person collective of enthusiasts. We've become a multi-million dollar responsibility. Having a long history with the club, a computer with web access and a comprehensive knowledge of the vehicles is nice; but has nothing to do with managing and driving the business of the club. The Board of Directors take care of the really difficult stuff so that the rest of the 74,000 members can enjoy the by product - FUN. It is vitally important that those volunteering understand that there will be a lot of tough decisions, a lot of late nights on the phone and in front of the computer, and more than a handful of weekends away from home. Mostly they need to know that they are ultimately responsible for the continued health of this organization. Now for the glamorous part of the job - meetings are held at mid-priced hotels, they are often lengthy and always taxing, reports are due before and after, and often you go home with more assignments than you had when you arrived. To better help you assess whether you want to run, copies of the job descriptions will be emailed to you on request. I'm really not trying to dissuade volunteers so much as adhere to truth in advertising tenets...the Club needs qualified volunteers who are able to treat their hobby like a business and devote the same attention to the club as they would to a regular job.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Membership growth for the club has improved, but we recognize that we may not be reaching certain groups of people who would likely enjoy membership in this organization - if they only knew we existed. We think that there may be some benefit to having a couple of people brainstorm to devise ways to appeal to different groups. A Committee has been formed comprising Carlos Diaz-Estrada, Eddy Funahashi and Reid Douglas. Have some ideas to share with them about target groups and how to reach them? Write to: Eddy_Funahashi@bmwcca.org, Carlos_Diaz-Estrada@bmwcca.org and Reid_Douglas@bmwcca.org.

DIRECTORS & OFFICERS LIABILITY COVERAGE FOR CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS

Several members of chapter Boards have asked for information on how to go about obtaining D&O coverage for their chapters. Many have called me again to complain that they are finding rates for even minimal protection to be exorbitant. Well – good news! The Board has tasked the BMW CCA Risk Managers with exploring D&O coverage through a policy that would allow chapters to obtain coverage at a reduced rate under the National organization's umbrella – similar to how we provide Motorsports Liability coverage. Our Risk Management Committee is working with the club's broker to get you facts and figures and hopefully reasonable pricing.

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The National Office will be closed Monday, October 13
2003 in observance of Columbus Day.